

REMARKS

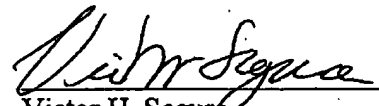
Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US 4,543,648 (Hsu). Independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 have been amended to further distinguish the invention. It is believed that no new matter is introduced by way of amendment.

Appendix A is attached hereto to illustrate some differences between the system described in the '648 patent and the present invention. The technique described in the '648 patent requires the coherence measure computed from acoustic data to be projected to a slowness axis in order to combine the subarrays. Applicants' invention does not have this limitation. Applicants' system directly averages the computed coherence measures.

Applicants submit that amended claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance and passage to issuance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be advantageous in advancing the issuance of this application, a call to the undersigned at (281) 285-4562 is encouraged.

Schlumberger Technology Corporation
Sugar Land Product Center
200 Gillingham Lane, MD 9
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
(281) 285-4562
(281) 285-8821 Fax
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Respectfully submitted,


Victor H. Segura
Reg. No. 44,329
Attorney for Assignee